REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 2, 2002, the drawings were objected to; claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10-12, 15, 18, 19, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,874,985 (Matthews); claim 8 was rejected under § 103 over Matthews in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,298,482 (Seidman); and claims 2, 4, 7-9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, and 23 were rejected under § 103 over Matthews in view of the Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification (ATVEF Specification).

OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS

The detailed description has been amended to add reference numerals 110 and 308. No new matter has been added.

Also, Figure 7 has been revised to delete the reference numeral "122".

With the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings have been overcome.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § § 102 AND 103

Applicant respectfully traverses all rejections over the cited references.

Claim 1 recites a method that comprises receiving enhancement data associated with multiple television channels that have been multiplexed onto a separate delivery mechanism, with *announcements* in the enhancement data being *expected at a first location,* and receiving one or more special indications *at the first location* indicating that announcements are available on the separate delivery mechanism. The one or more special indications *identify locations of the announcements* associated with particular television channels. The method further comprises determining *a location* of an *announcement* based on a *special indication* associated with a currently tuned television channel.

The combination recited in claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Matthews. Matthews discloses providing messages from a control node 12 to one or multiple viewer stations 16. This is accomplished by sending a message signal that includes a message, a station identifier corresponding to the selected viewer station 16, and a message image format indicator representing a dialog message block (100) format or a flash message block (102) format. Matthews, 6:12-18. The message image format indicator includes specific message block information such as size for a dialog message block 100 and vertical screen position and duration

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for a flash message block 102. Matthews, 6:18-21. The message can be in text or written format, can include an audio component, and can include a video component. Matthews, 6:21-25. At the receiving end, an interactive station controller 20 (in the viewer station 16) identifies an applicable message signal, accepts it, and in response to it, retrieves the corresponding message image format (either a dial up message block 100 or a flash message block 102). Matthews, 6:43-46.

Nothing in Matthews even remotely suggests receiving one or more special indications at a first location at which announcements in enhancement data are expected, in conjunction with using the one or more special indications to identify locations of the announcements associated with particular television channels. All Matthews discloses is receiving a message signal that includes a message, a station identifier, and a message image format indicator, and displaying the message at a viewer station 16 using the indicated message image format (either a dialog message block or a flash message block). The message signal does not include an indication of a *location* of announcements associated with a particular television channel. Thus, Matthews does not teach or suggest determining a location of an announcement based on a special indication associated with a currently tuned television channel. In addition, Matthews does not teach or suggest receiving the special indication at a location at which the announcements are expected.

For the foregoing reasons, Matthews does not teach or suggest the invention of claim 1.

Independent claim 8 was rejected as obvious over either the combination of Matthews and Seidman or the combination of Matthews and the ATVEF Specification. The Office Action stated that Matthews fails to teach that the special announcement data indicates the availability of announcement data. Instead, reliance was made on either Seidman or the ATVEF Specification as teaching the missing element.

Note that claim 8 actually recites a device adapted to receive announcement data associated with a tuned audio/video program *directed to a first location* and to receive a special announcement *directed to the first location*, with the special announcement indicating availability of the announcement data associated with the tuned audio/video program. Claim 8 further recites a controller adapted to *redirect the announcement data to a second location in response to the special announcement.* Even if they can be combined, there is no suggestion anywhere in Matthews and Seidman or the ATVEF Specification of a device that is able to receive both announcement data and a special announcement *directed at the first location.*

Additionally, Matthews and either Seidman or the ATVEF Specification do not teach or suggest a controller adapted to redirect data to a second location in response to the special announcement.

Independent claim 10 was rejected as being anticipated by Matthews. Claim 10 recites receiving a plurality of ancillary information streams associated with a plurality of audio/video programs over a separate delivery mechanism, with announcements in the ancillary information streams being *expected at a first location*. The claim also recites receiving a predetermined indication *at the first location* and identifying *a location of the announcement* of an ancillary information stream associated with the tuned audio/video program based on the predetermined indication. Similar to the arguments presented with respect to claim 1, Matthews does not teach or suggest the recited combination.

Independent claim 11 was also rejected as being anticipated by Matthews. Claim 11 recites multiplexing enhancement data including announcements associated with multiple audio/video programs for transmissions over a separate delivery mechanism and transmitting a predetermined indication over the separate delivery mechanism to *a first location at which the announcements in the enhancement data* are expected. Further, the predetermined indication identifies a location other than the first location of one or more announcements associated with the one audio/video program. This is not taught or suggested at all by Matthews.

With respect to independent claim 15, Matthews does not teach or suggest a device adapted to receive one or more special indicators that include data identifying locations of one or more announcements contained in ancillary information associated with a tuned audio/video program.

Independent claim 19 was also rejected as being anticipated by Matthews. Claim 19 recites a system having a controller to combine announcement information portions associated with a plurality of audio/video programs for transmission and a second unit to transmit the combined announcement information portions with a special indicator associated with an audio/video program, the special indicator being transmitted to *a first location at which the announcement information portions are expected*, and the special indicator to *identify locations* of the announcement information portions.

Independent claim 21 was also rejected as being anticipated by Matthews. Claim 21 recites an article comprising instructions that when executed cause a device to receive a

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predetermined indicator associated with a tuned audio/video program at a first location and *to identify a second location* of one or more announcements associated with the tuned audio/video program based on the predetermined indicator.
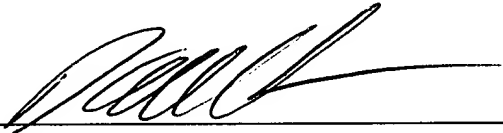
In light of the foregoing, all independent claims are allowable over the cited references. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims.

Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0208USUS).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4-2-02
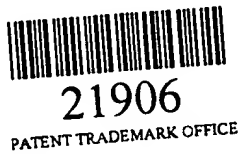
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph starting on page 9, at line 14:

-- Referring to Fig. 2, components in the transport operator system 14, receiving system (receiver 16, 17, or 19) and the server 18 in the system 10 of Fig. 1A are illustrated. With some modifications, the distribution system 50 and 51 may have similar components as the transport operator system 14. The transport operator system 14 may include a receiving port 102 to receive information from the content creator 12 over a link 24. The received enhancement data may be provided to a controller 106 in the transport operator system 14. A/V content may be received with the enhancement data through port 102 or through a separate A/V receive port (not shown). The controller 106 may be run under control of a software routine 108 (referred to as a transport routine). The transport routine 108 may initially be stored in a storage medium 104 and loaded by the controller 106 for execution. Instructions and data of the transport routine 108 may also be stored in the storage medium 104. According to some embodiments, the controller 106 may be adapted to separate the A/V content from the enhancement data before separate transmission of the A/V content over the transport medium 22. The controller 106 may also create special announcements to be transmitted with enhancement data over a separate link (e.g., link 20). The enhancement data and special announcements may be stored in a storage medium 113, which may be transmitted over the secondary link 20 through a transceiver 112. Alternatively, the enhancement data and special announcements may be transmitted, by a transmitter 110, over the transport medium 22 with the A/V content but in a separate transport stream program. In the latter embodiment, different parts of the transport routine 108 (or alternatively, different routines) may handle transmission of both the A/V content and the enhancement data and special announcements. The transceiver 112 may be a telephone modem, a cable modem, or any other type of analog or digital transceiver or transmitter adapted to communicate over the secondary link 20. --

Amend the paragraph starting on page 13, at line 4:

-- Referring to Fig. 7, a process according to one embodiment performed by the controller 120 (under control of the SA routine 136 and/or enhancement routine 138 in each receiver 16, 17, or 19 is illustrated. On the receiving side, the controller 120 determines if one or more special announcements have been received (at 302) on the predetermined ATVEF SDP address and port. Using the strings listed above, the controller 120 processes the special announcements until one for the currently tuned A/V channel is found (at 304). It then uses the special announcement to find the IP address and port for the ATVEF announcements for the currently tuned channel (at 306). At this point, the ATVEF announcements that normally would have been transmitted over the transport medium 22 along with the A/V content for the tuned TV channel have been located. If the ATVEF announcement or announcements are found (at 308), then the identified ATVEF announcements are processed (at 310) to locate resource files and triggers. Otherwise, an error is indicated (at 312). --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the following claims where indicated (un-amended claims in smaller font) New claims 24-31 are added.:

1   1.   A method of communicating television content and enhancement data including announcements,
2   comprising:
3   receiving the television content associated with multiple television channels over a transport
4   medium;
5   receiving enhancement data associated with the multiple television channels that have been
6   multiplexed onto a separate delivery mechanism, announcements in the enhancement data being expected at a first
.7   location;
8   receiving one or more special indications at the first location indicating that enhancement data is
9   available on the separate delivery mechanism, the one or more special indications identifying locations of the
10   announcements associated with the multiple television channels;
11   determining a location of an announcement based on a special indication associated with a
12   currently tuned television channel; and
13   processing the announcement of the currently tuned television channel.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the processing includes processing announcements according to
2   an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more special indications are received on the separate

2   delivery mechanism.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the enhancement data over the separate delivery

2   mechanism includes receiving the enhancement data on a data-only transport stream program.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the enhancement data over the separate delivery

2   mechanism includes receiving the enhancement over a separate communications link.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the announcements at locations different

2   from the first location.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein receiving the announcements includes receiving the

2   announcements at an Internet Protocol address and port different from an expected announcement Internet Protocol

3   address and port.

1   8.   (Amended) A system capable of communicating audio/video content, comprising:

2   a receiver adapted to tune to an audio/video portion over a transport medium;

3   a device adapted to receive announcement data associated with the tuned

4   audio/video content directed to a first location and to receive a special announcement directed to

5   the [second] first location, the special announcement indicating availability of the announcement

6   data associated with the tuned audio/video program; and

7   a controller adapted to redirect the announcement data to a second location in

8   response to the special announcement.

1   9.   The system of claim 8, wherein the second location includes an address and port for receiving

2   announcements according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

1   10.   A method of communicating audio/video programs, comprising:

2   receiving the audio/video programs over a transport medium;

3   receiving a plurality of ancillary information streams associated with a plurality of audio/video

4   programs over a separate delivery mechanism, announcements in the ancillary information streams being expected

5   at a first location;

6   receiving a predetermined indication at the first location;

7   tuning to one of the audio/video programs; and

8   identifying a location of the announcement of an ancillary information stream associated with the

9   tuned audio/video program based on the predetermined indication.

1   11.   A method of communicating audio/video content and enhancement data, comprising:

2   transmitting the audio/video content over a transport medium;

3   multiplexing enhancement data including announcements associated with multiple audio/video

4   programs for transmission over a separate delivery mechanism; and

5   transmitting a predetermined indication over the separate delivery mechanism to a first location at

6   which the announcements in the enhancement data are expected, the predetermined indication being associated with

7   one of the audio/video programs and identifying a location other than the first location of one or more

8   announcements associated with the one audio/video program.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, further comprising multicasting the enhancement data and predetermined

2   indications to a plurality of receivers.

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1   13.   The method of claim 11, wherein the enhancement data is according to an Advanced Television

2   Enhancement Forum Specification.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the first location includes an IP address and port at which

2   announcements are expected to arrive.

1   15.   A system capable of receiving audio/video content over a transport medium and ancillary

2   information over a separate delivery mechanism, comprising:

3   a first device adapted to receive the audio/video content associated with a plurality of audio/video

4   programs over the transport medium;

5   a second device adapted to receive one or more special indicators and a stream of ancillary

6   information portions associated with a plurality of audio/video programs over the separate delivery mechanism; and

7   a controller adapted to locate one or more ancillary information portions associated with a tuned

8   audio/video program based on information in a special indicator identified with the tuned audio/video program,

9   wherein the ancillary information portions include announcements, and the special indicators

10   include data identifying locations of the one or more announcements.

1   16.   The system of claim 15, wherein the ancillary information is according to an Advanced Television

2   Enhancement Forum Specification.

1   17.   The system of claim 16, wherein the announcements are expected at an announcement IP address

2   and port.

1   18.   The system of claim 15, wherein the first and second devices may include different parts of a

2   software routine.

1   19.   A system for transmitting audio/video content and ancillary information portions, comprising:

2   a first unit adapted to transmit audio/video content over a transport medium;

3   a controller adapted to combine announcement information portions associated with a plurality of

4   audio/video programs for transmission; and

5   a second unit adapted to transmit the combined announcement information portions with a special

6   indicator associated with an audio/video program, the special indicator being transmitted to a first location at which

7   the announcement information portions are expected, the special indicator identifying locations of the announcement

8   information portions.

1   20.   The system of claim 19, wherein the announcement information portions include announcements

2   according to an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum Specification.

1   21.   An article including one or more machine-readable storage media containing instructions for

2   communicating audio/video programs in a system, the instructions when executed causing a device in the system to:

3   receive the audio/video programs, each audio/video program including at least one of audio data

4   and video data, over a transport medium from a source;

5   receive a stream of ancillary data portions including announcements associated with a plurality of

6   audio/video programs over a separate delivery mechanism;

7   tune to one of the audio/video programs;

8   receive a predetermined indicator associated with the tuned audio/video program at a first

9   location; and

10   identify a second location of one or more announcements associated with the tuned audio/video

11 program based on the predetermined indicator.

1   22.   The article of claim 21, the one or more storage media containing instructions that when executed

2   cause the system to receive audio/video programs including television content associated with a plurality of

3   television channels.

1   23.   The article of claim 21, the one or more storage media containing instructions that when executed

2   cause the system to receive ancillary data portions including enhancement data according to an Advanced Television

3   Enhancement Forum Specification.

1   24.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first location comprises a first network

2   address and port, the method further comprising receiving the announcements at a second

3   network address and port different from the first network address and port.

1   25.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the one or more special

2   indications at the first location comprises receiving the one or more special indications at a

3   network address and port.

1   26.   (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the first location comprises a first network

2   address and port and the second location comprises a second, different network address and port.

1   27.   (New) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the predetermined indication at

2   the first location comprises receiving the predetermined indication at a first network address and

3   port, and

4   wherein identifying the location of the announcement comprises identifying a

5   second, different network address and port.

1   28.   (New) The method of claim 11, wherein transmitting the predetermined indication

2   to the first location comprises transmitting the predetermined indication to a first network

3   address and port,

4   wherein the location other than the first location comprises a second, different

5   network address and port.

1   29.   (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the locations identified by the special

2   indicators comprise network addresses and ports.

1   30.   (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the first location comprises a first

2   network address and port, and wherein the locations of the announcement information portions

3   comprise network addresses and ports other than the first network address and port.

1   31.   (New) The article of claim 21, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2 system to receive the predetermined indicator at a first network address and port and to identify a

3 second, different network address and port of the one or more announcements.